

Serial No. 10/039,452 (K-C 17725)
Response to Office Action dated 11/18/2003

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace each indicated paragraph with its following, respective rewritten paragraph:

The paragraph at page 1, immediately following the title:

*This application claims priority from the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application
No. 60/297000, filed June 8, 2001.*

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5:

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The absorbent article (40), a version of which is illustrated in FIG. 3, has a principal longitudinal axis (L) which generally runs along the x direction. As used herein, the term "longitudinal" refers to a line, axis or direction in the plane of the absorbent article (40) that is generally aligned with (e.g., approximately parallel to) a vertical plane that bisects a standing female wearer into left and right body halves when the absorbent article is in use. The longitudinal direction is generally illustrated in FIG. 3 by the x-axis. The absorbent article (40) also has a principal transverse axis (T). The terms "transverse," "lateral" or "y direction" as used herein generally refer to a line, axis or direction that is generally perpendicular to the longitudinal direction. The lateral direction is generally illustrated in FIG. 3 by the y-axis. The "z direction" is typically a line, axis or direction generally parallel to the vertical plane described above. The z direction is generally illustrated in FIG. 4 by the z-axis, Z-Z. The term "upper" refers generally to an orientation directed toward the wearer's head, while the terms "lower" or "downwardly" refer generally to an orientation directed toward the wearer's feet. For purposes of discussion herein, each layer of the absorbent article (40), e.g., a fluid permeable cover (62), a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and/or an absorbent (66), has an upper or body-facing surface and a lower surface also described as the surface opposed to the upper or body-facing surface.

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26:

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The absorbent (66) also desirably has a basis weight of less than about 600 grams per square meter (gsm). Stated differently, the absorbent (66) typically has a maximum basis weight of no greater than about 600; alternatively, no greater than about 500; alternatively, no greater than about 400; alternatively, no greater than about 300; alternatively, no greater than about 200; or alternatively, no greater than about 100 gsm. Generally, the absorbent (66) also has a minimum basis weight of typically no less than about 0.1; alternatively, no less than about 50; alternatively, no less than about 100;

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alternatively, no less than about 150; alternatively, no less than about 200; alternatively, no less than about 250; alternatively, no less than about 300; alternatively, no less than about 350; alternatively, no less than about 400; alternatively, no less than about 450; alternatively, no less than about 500; or alternatively, no less than about 550 gsm. Thus, the absorbent (66) may have a basis weight of about 600 gsm or less; although the approximate basis weight of the absorbent may vary according to, *inter alia*, the general design and intended disposition of the absorbent article (40) within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer. A specific example of a suitable absorbent would be similar to a coform material made of a blend of polypropylene and cellulose fibers and used in [[KOTEX[®]]] KOTEX maxi pantiliners and obtainable from Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Neenah, WI, USA.

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The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 30:

The cover (62) is provided for comfort and conformability and functions to direct bodily exudate(s) away from the body and toward the absorbent (66). The cover (62) should retain little or no liquid in its structure so that it provides a relatively comfortable and non-irritating surface next to the tissues within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer. The cover (62) can be constructed of any woven or nonwoven material which is also easily penetrated by bodily fluids contacting its surface. Examples of suitable materials include rayon, bonded carded webs of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, nylon, or other heat-bondable fibers, polyolefins, such as copolymers of polypropylene and polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, aliphatic esters such as polylactic acid, finely perforated film webs and net material also work well. A specific example of a suitable cover material would be similar to a bonded carded web made of polypropylene and polyethylene used as a cover stock for [[KOTEX[®]]] KOTEX pantiliners and obtainable from Sandler Corporation, Germany. Other examples of suitable materials are composite materials of a polymer and a nonwoven fabric material. The composite materials are typically in the form of integral sheets generally formed by the extrusion of a polymer onto a web of spunbond material. The fluid permeable cover (62) can also contain a plurality of apertures (not shown) formed therein which are intended to increase the rate at which bodily fluid(s) can penetrate into the absorbent (66).